

**KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) 9
SEARCH AND RESCUE**

PRIMARY AGENCY: King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: King County Office of Emergency Management
King County Search & Rescue Association (KCSARA)
King County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit
Washington State Emergency Management Division
Washington Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce 1
Washington State Aeronautics Division
Federal Aviation and Administration (FAA)
Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART)
King County Medic One
Fire Resources for Swift Water, Dive, and other specialties

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to identify roles and responsibilities for search and rescue activities within King County.

B. Scope

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue discusses land and waterborne search and rescue capabilities within King County. While local law enforcement has authority for conduct of traditional wildland and lost persons search and rescue, the fire service serves search and rescue in collapsed structures and specialized urban environment searches. Both the fire service and law enforcement have capabilities to contribute to swift water and dive related search and rescue operations.

II. POLICIES

The King County Sheriff's Office is only responsible for those search and rescue operations identified under the section: Responsibilities/King County Sheriff's Office.

The King County Sheriff's Office is the lead/authority directing wildland and missing person search and rescue field operations.

The fire service may be the lead/authority for specialized urban environment searches like collapsed structures and hazardous environment field operations.

Either the King County Sheriff's Office or a fire service representative may be the ESF 9 coordinator in the RCECC depending on the circumstances. Both law enforcement and a fire service representative may collaborate on search and rescue missions and resource allocations while in the RCECC.

King County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit (KCSAR) will manage incidents using the Incident Command System and coordinate with other federal, state, and local organizations when providing search, rescue and recovery functions.

King County SAR will manage search and rescue operations within unincorporated King County, King County Sheriff's Office contract cities, and other incorporated jurisdictions requesting SAR response.

King County SAR volunteers are members of KCSARA and are registered Washington State Emergency Workers (WAC 118-04) and follow guidelines and procedures established by the command structure of the Sheriff's Office.

Where King County SAR is called to assist another agency within King County, KCSAR leadership will coordinate activities with the requesting agency and may assume the role of Incident Commander for the event.

Where King County SAR is called to assist another agency outside of King County, KCSARA volunteers will respond and be assigned activities by the lead agency. King County SAR Unit deputies may also respond to assist in missions outside of King County as requested or required by policy.

King County SAR will follow normal policies and procedures whenever possible, realizing that extraordinary circumstances may dictate some adjustments. King County SAR resources will comply with all federal, state, and local laws governing search and rescue activities.

Active search operations and training operations will be conducted under state established mission numbers. Registered emergency workers/search volunteers will work under the supervision of a King County Sheriff's Deputy. Liability for injuries and claims for property damages to registered KCSARA volunteers may be covered by the State of Washington under this assigned mission number.

KCSAR will obtain the needed mission number for training or actual SAR mission deployments.

The search for and recovery of bodies may be conducted only after the rescue of survivors has been completed, it is determined that no criminal incident has occurred or investigation is required, and the environment will allow for safe operation by search and recovery personnel.

III. Situation Overview

Historically, this ESF was restricted to the capability and capacity of King County government alone. Ordinance 17075 amended King County Code 2.56 to broaden the obligations of King County government to extend its involvement in emergencies to regional King County and coordinate more closely with our regional public and private sector partners. Both the fire service and local law enforcement have resources that can contribute to search and rescue operations.

A. Hazard Analysis Summary

King County will periodically experience emergency situations, which may overwhelm current search, rescue, and recovery capabilities. Equipment and personnel may be damaged or unavailable at times when they are most needed. The King County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis describes situations that affect our area that may impact search and rescue operations. Mountainous terrain, rivers, vast wooded areas, inland lakes, Puget Sound waters, mixed with urban areas, provide challenges for the periodic use and testing of existing search and rescue services. See the King County CEMP Basic Plan, Section B.4.a for the detailed Hazard Analysis Summary.

Search and Rescue operations may occur as the result of structural collapse, flooding, land movement, avalanche, missing aircraft, summer or winter recreational incidents, or persons that may wander off from their normal living environments. Statewide, more search and rescue missions are conducted annually than any other mission.

B. Planning Assumptions

Search and rescue operations in a disaster will require the use of existing trained search and rescue personnel (reference RCW 38.52) and specialized equipment. Many search and rescue personnel are volunteers.

During normal circumstances, an adequate number of volunteers can be recruited for general search and rescue purposes from within existing County groups.

King County recognizes that it cannot provide all necessary equipment or personnel to cope with every search and rescue mission during a major emergency or disaster.

Support from assets such as helicopters, specialized dogs, and outside search and rescue groups may be required from adjoining political subdivisions or from state resources to ensure maximum search and rescue effectiveness. Weather conditions may prevent use of air assets for extended periods.

Hazardous environments related to emergency conditions may impede search, rescue, and recovery operations. These may include but are not restricted to: the presence of hazardous materials including chemicals or biological materials, fire or fire conditions, unstable terrain or snow pack, active shooter(s), live electrical wires, or other conditions.

During an emergency/disaster the amount of requests for air support may quickly overwhelm the search, rescue and recovery capabilities along with the additional requests for damage assessments.

When search and rescue activities result in the discovery of a deceased person or search and rescue workers assist in the recovery of human remains, the King County Sheriff shall ensure compliance with RCW 68.08.

C. Capabilities Assessment

ESF 9 capabilities consist of resources needed in searches for missing or injured persons in urban, suburban, and rural environments and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) conditions.

King County Search and Rescue Association (KCSARA) – KCSARA is comprised of eight separate skill based units:

1. 4x4 Search and Rescue
2. Explorer Search and Rescue
3. King County SAR Incident Support Team
4. King County Search Dogs
5. King County Horseback SAR
6. Pacific Northwest Trackers
7. Seattle Mountain Rescue
8. Ski Patrol Rescue Teams

Oversight of the eight KCSARA units is provided by the King County Sheriff's Office. Dispatch of search and rescue units is initiated by the King County Communications Center (9-1-1).

4x4 Search and Rescue – Units primary mission is to provide transportation to other search and rescue organizations through use of all-wheel terrain vehicles that are capable of negotiating terrain that would not be passable by conventional vehicles. The unit is also capable of conducting night road searches, traffic control, radio relay, and helicopter operations and air traffic support.

Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) –ESAR is the counties primary ground search and non-technical rescue unit. This unit may also be used for evidence search missions. ESAR responds to 60 plus missions a year.

King County Search and Rescue Incident Support Team (IST) – Provides incident management support with administrative, record keeping, radio logging, and other duties that support field search efforts. Members are required to obtain an amateur radio license within a year of joining.

King County Search Dogs – All canine handlers are volunteers that provide their own dogs and outdoor equipment. Teams train in specialty search categories like evidence search, water search, disaster and avalanche search.

Northwest Horseback Search and Rescue – Teams volunteer train as horse and rider for the transportation of medical supplies, litters, radios, etc. Members are trained in wilderness navigation, first aid, search and survival skills.

Pacific Northwest Trackers Association – Provide teams for tracking lost persons and evidence searches.

Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR) – Provides teams that specialize in “high angle” and “high hazard operations”.

Ski Patrol Rescue Team – Members provide emergency medical/trauma care in wilderness environments year round. Many National Ski Patrol and American Red Cross members belong to the Ski Patrol Rescue Team.

Search and Rescue Equipment –KCSARA equipment is primarily provided by the member volunteers.

For more information on KCSAR capabilities, see <http://kcsara.org/> or <http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/sheriff/Enforcement/Specialized/SAR.aspx>

King County Sheriff’s Office Marine Unit – The King County Sheriff’s Office Marine/Dive/Rescue Unit is responsible for law enforcement on all lakes, rivers and other waters within unincorporated areas of the county as well as in several cities that contract for (KCSO) marine service, including regular patrols, law enforcement, emergency response, and boater safety education.

The King County Marine Unit also contributes to swimmer rescues, drowning victim/body recovery as well as documenting and recovering evidence underwater.

The Marine Unit patrols Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, and numerous small lakes and rivers throughout King County.

The unit’s deputies are specially trained in the following areas:

- Boat handling
- Small craft fire suppression
- Marine laws and enforcement
- Boating under the influence (BUI) investigation
- Boating accident investigation
- Oil Spill Response
- Police scuba diving
- Underwater evidence processing
- Hoist, long line and Air TEP

- Mass Casualty accountability

Members of the unit are PADI dive master certified. The unit uses underwater cameras, metal detectors, and hands on experience in waters with little to zero visibility. The unit also participates in swift water rescue, rescue of persons stranded by flood waters, limited fire rescue and suppression and stabilizing sinking, drifting, and abandon vessels. KCSO Marine Unit equipment includes a 41 foot Safe boat, 38 foot Moose Vessel, a vessel assigned to Lake Sammamish, an aluminum hull (trailer able) vessel, and numerous white water and inflatable rescue craft. Rescue may include animals as well as human assistance. Equipment currently deployed includes Side Scan and Blueview ROV.

The larger craft are capable of inserting SWAT or medical teams, providing platforms for CPR, AED, or medical treatment.

For more information regarding the KCSO Marine Unit, go to:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/sheriff/Enforcement/Specialized/MarinePatrol.aspx>

Fire Search and Rescue – The Fire departments and fire districts of King County have a wide range of equipment and personnel capable of contributing to marine and swift water search and rescue. This includes dive teams, aquatic craft, and teams skilled at working in difficult environments. Fire and law enforcement search and rescue may form a unified command structure or act under a single incident command authority as circumstances dictate.

WASART – Washington State Animal Response Team – “Helping animals and their owners – through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.” WASART may be a primary or support responder in urban, rural, or back country responses involving companion and large animals. While WASART has limited ability to deal with exotics directly, they have resource references to parties with more expertise. For more information, use the link below:

<http://www.washingtonsart.org/>

Washington State USAR Taskforce 1 (WA-TF 1) – was established in 1991 and currently consists of members from 21 agencies from three primary jurisdictions: Seattle Fire; King County; and Pierce County. Personnel are drawn from fire departments, hospitals, law enforcement, and public works agencies. Canine teams accompany WA-TF 1 members on all deployments.

For more information on WA-TF 1 <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=2889>

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

The King County Sheriff's Office will have responsibility for land and waterborne searches using local resources as available. When local search and rescue resources are

exhausted, or if needed resources are not locally available, assistance will be requested through mutual aid and the Washington State Division of Emergency Management.

“Search and Rescue” means the acts of searching for, rescuing, or recovering by means of ground, marine, or air activity any person who becomes lost, injured, or is killed while outdoors or as a result of a natural or technological disaster. This includes instances involving search for downed aircraft when ground personnel are used. Evidence searches of crime scenes may be so vast or complex that they require search and rescue resources.

The goal of search and rescue operations is to save the lives of victims who are unable to ensure their own survival without assistance. This includes, but is not limited to locating persons lost in wilderness areas and assisting injured people in unsafe areas to reach safety.

The search for and recovery of bodies may be conducted only after the rescue of survivors has been completed, it is determined that no criminal incident has occurred or investigation is required, and the environment will allow for safe operation by search and recovery personnel.

B. Organization

The King County Sheriff’s Office is responsible for land and waterborne search and rescue operations within its jurisdictional authority. The Office of Emergency Management supports the Sheriff’s Office registration of volunteers as state emergency workers. In the RCECC, ESF 9 is part of the Emergency Services Branch of the Operations Section.

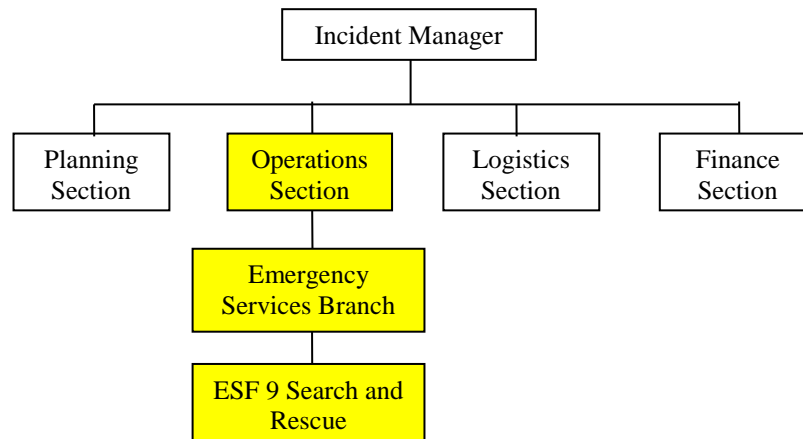


Figure 1: ESF 9 in the RCECC organization

Search and rescue volunteer units are organized under the authority of King County Sheriff’s Office. Volunteers are all registered as emergency workers and follow guidelines established by RCW 38.52 and WAC 118-04. Volunteers used specifically in air search and rescue missions are registered by Washington State DOT, Aviation

Division under RCW 47.68 and WAC 468.200.

C. Procedures

When a report of a land based search and rescue incident is received by the King County Sheriff's Office, a Sheriff's patrol unit will be dispatched to the scene to evaluate the need for King County SAR. The deputy will notify the King County Sheriff's Office Communications Center who will then alert the King County SAR Duty Officer of the pending mission.

The King County SAR Duty deputy will notify KCSARA units and volunteers, and initiate search and rescue operations. A state mission number will be obtained from Washington State Emergency Management Division prior to activating KCSARA volunteers.

A SAR deputy will be sent to the area where the search and rescue operations are to be conducted, establish a command post, initiate the investigations, coordinate mission goals and objectives, and provide support required for search and rescue operations.

Existing King County SAR personnel are current in department policy, procedures, and federal NIMS requirements. KCSARA volunteer search and rescue units are qualified in accordance with RCW 38.52 and WAC 118.04. Each KCSARA unit has and maintains training for its members in accordance with their individual mission related procedures and processes.

Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce 1 members are state resources that may be deployed within the state on missions. The taskforce is activated by FEMA for missions outside Washington State. FEMA provides oversight of taskforce standards and protocols.

D. Mitigation/Preparedness Activities

All primary and support agencies will ensure that personnel and equipment are protected from the effects of disasters. Caches of equipment for SAR are maintained in locations in King. USAR equipment caches are located in both King and Pierce Counties. Each USAR Task Force conducts its own training and practice for the necessary skills and knowledge. All USAR Task forces must be available to deploy within 6 hours of notice.

E. Response/Recovery Activities

All response and recovery activities are detailed in department/division procedures and SOPs, and appropriate state and federal recovery guidelines. Personnel and units prepare after action reports against the deployment or training mission number. Depleted supplies and damaged equipment may be replaced or repaired from available funds. Claims for injuries or damage personal property are submitted and

processed for KASARA by the King County Office of Emergency Management Emergency Worker Program Manager.

For large incidents, a King County Sheriff's Office representative may be deployed to the RCECC to coordinate ESF 9 activities. Under some situations, the ESF 9 coordinator may also be the ESF 13 (Public Safety) Coordinator.

The chief law enforcement official of political subdivisions (cities and towns), located in King County shall be responsible for search and rescue activities within respective jurisdictional boundaries, unless they request the King County Sheriff's Office to handle said mission.

The King County Sheriff's Office SAR Deputy or other law enforcement official may act as the incident commander at the field command post. Mutual aid resources may be requested directly by the field incident commander to regional partners or to/through the King County Emergency Management Duty Officer or the RCECC Logistics Section when the RCECC has been staffed. Documentation of resource requests is conducted at all levels of the response – in the field and in the RCECC as appropriate. The search and rescue mission remains active until closed out by the incident commander (usually the KCSO SAR Coordinator).

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agency

The King County Sheriff is responsible for search and rescue operations in the unincorporated area of the County, and selected cities that contract with KCSO for police services.

KCSO SAR may:

- Seek a state mission number for the operational or training assignment.
- Take command of SAR missions within a city of King County at their request.
- Assign a deputy to search and rescue coordination.
- Register SAR volunteers as emergency workers.
- Coordinate and monitor SAR operations including government and volunteer organizations.
- Ensure SAR volunteers managed by KC SAR are trained in accordance with RCW 38.52 and WAC 118-04.
- Track volunteer training requirements under WAC 118.04.
- Establish ground support for air operations.
- Establish a communications plan for management of SAR operations.
- Seek support or mutual aid from appropriate agencies.
- Staff ESF 9 in the RCECC as needed.
- Collaborate with local fire where USAR or hazardous materials conditions exist.

KCSO Marine Unit will:

- Seek a state mission number for the operational or training assignment when working with KCSARA volunteers.
- Conduct law enforcement actions on the navigable waters of unincorporated King County and contract cities.
- Conduct search and rescue operations for drowning victims and missing persons.
- Conduct evidence searches in bodies of water under KCSO or contract city jurisdictional authority.
- Provide and/or seek and accept mutual aid assistance for missions.
- Work in conjunction with other KCSO SAR assets.
- Coordinate search and rescue operations with other SAR, law enforcement and fire resources.

The Washington State Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce 1 will:

- Seek and maintain staffing levels consistent with FEAM requirements.
- Ensure training to FEMA established standards.
- Maintain supplies and equipment needed for deployment.
- Replace damaged or used equipment and supplies for the USAR Taskforce.
- Be deployed within 6 hours of FEMA request.
- Be self-contained/self-supporting for four days.

Fire Zone Coordinator may:

- Staff ESF 9 in the RCECC where USAR operations are being conducted.
- Support or collaborate with the King County Sheriff's Office ESF 9 coordinator in the RCECC as needed.

B. Support Agencies

King County Sheriff's Office Communications Center will:

- Identify SAR missions and notify the SAR Duty Officer or Marine Unit of those missions.
- Seek needed responders and resources consistent with SAR incident commander requirements.
- Notify King County Emergency Management Duty Officer of SAR operations.

King County Sheriff's Office Air Support Unit will:

- Seek a state mission number for the operational or training assignment.
- Conduct life safety missions during an emergency/disaster conditions.
- Manage operational and tactical personnel involved with the SAR mission.
- Seek additional resources needed for the SAR mission.
- Coordinate with the State for both air tactical and air support resources.
- Direct King County SAR and KCSARA volunteer units in the conduct of ground or marine rescue and/or recovery operations of persons in downed aircraft within King County or at the request of Washington State DOT aeronautics and FAA.
- Assist the Aeronautics Division of the State DOT for air search operations.

King County Department of Transportation may:

- Provide transportation assets in support of SAR.
- Provide assets for road closure in support of SAR.

King County Office of Emergency Management may:

- Provide support through activation of the Emergency Coordination Center.
- Obtain state mission numbers for training or SAR operational missions.
- Process injury and real property damage claims over \$2000 from volunteers used in the SAR missions.
- Provide reverse 9-1-1 support for SAR missions when requested.
- Seek non-responder resources for SAR operations when requested.
- Provide a liaison to field operations when requested.

King County Fire Departments and Fire Districts may:

- Conduct searches in collapsed structures in conjunctions with law enforcement as the circumstances may dictate.
- Support SAR missions with appropriate life support medical units.
- Support SAR missions with overhead team members.
- Support SAR missions with decontamination units.
- Act in a unified command structure or under the direction of the SAR incident commander.
- Provide swift water, dive team, and some marine search and rescue capability.

Washington State Aeronautics Division of the Washington State Department of Transportation may:

- Assume responsibility for search of downed civilian aircraft in the State of Washington.

Federal Aviation Administration may:

- Assume responsibility for search of downed aircraft.

WASART may:

- Provide specialized response and rescue personnel and equipment for animals and their owners in urban, rural, and back country environments.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Commissioned deputies, fire or medical staff, overhead teams, support staff, qualified volunteers, and equipment are to provide 24 hour a-day coverage until the demands of the emergency situation or disaster are over as additional resources become available.

VII. REFERENCES

- Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.52 Search and Rescue
- RCW 47.68 and WAC 468.200 Aviation
- Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 118-04 Emergency Workers
- King County Code (KCC) 2.56
- King County Sheriff's Office General Orders Manual
- King County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis

VIII. TERMS & DEFINITIONS

AED – Automatic Electronic Defibrillator
Air TEP - Air Tactical Extraction Platform
BUI – Boating under the influence
CEMP – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
CPR – Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation
DOT – Department of Transportation
Emergency Workers – volunteers trained and registered to conduct specific supervised operations
ESAR – Explorer Search and Rescue
ESF – Emergency Support Function
FAA – Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Administration
ICS – Incident Command System
IST – Incident Support Team
KCSARA – King County Search and Rescue Association
KCSO – King County Sheriff's Office
NIMS – National Incident Management System
PADI – Professional Association of Dive Instructors
RCW – Revised Code of Washington
ROV – Under water remotely operated vehicle
SAR – Search and Rescue
Side Scan – Sonar technology for locating underwater objects
SMR - Seattle Mountain Rescue
SWAT – Special Weapons and Tactics
Unified Command – Two or more organizations that share strategic decision making
USAR – Urban Search and Rescue
WAC – Washington Administrative Code
WASART – Washington State Animal Response Team

ESF 9 Approval

date